

From: Gregory Peker
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I have used both linux and windows in the past and have discontinued using linux for two reasons. Incompatibilities with hardware and lack of software. First of all, in linux, not all my equipment inside my computer work properly due to a lack of correct drivers. Windows, on the other hand, provides a wealth of drivers.

A problem with alternative OS' is that they lack necessary software. I am a web site designer and in linux, there is a huge deficit of programs I use (i.e.. Photoshop, dreamweaver, flash). I am not saying that Windows is very good, Microsoft can do a lot better, but I'm saying is that before you make a decision as to Microsoft's future, consider the alternatives. Linux, Solaris, and other similar operating systems are very good for servers because they provide the stability and protection needed. They are open source so IT officers can change part of the operating system to accommodate their requirements.

One big problem that I have with Microsoft is their use of their proprietary technology. Some examples are, IIS (it's capability to serve ASP), SQL, and etc. Microsoft has a lot of these proprietary technologies which force users to switch to their operating system. I think there should be a committee set up in Microsoft, payed for by Microsoft and hired by the government. This committee would assist Microsoft into deciding what to do so they don't get into any antitrust cases again.

Some things they should do is to open the source code to some of Microsoft's code. Perhaps, open source Windows 3.11 and older. Those operating systems are obsolete and no one uses them anymore. Then in a few years, open source to the Windows 9x operating system, and continue doing this when the technology becomes obsolete. As a web site designers, I work with ASP and SQL very often. I would prefer running the server's under LINUX, but the only programs that serve ASP in LINUX are not as good as IIS. Microsoft should be forced to create an alternative to IIS for the LINUX platform.

I am not a Windows enthusiast, nor am I a LINUX enthusiast. Both operating systems have a lot of potential, but for two completely different segments. Windows is more for the new computer user or someone who is not very good at computers. LINUX is for those computers geeks who know how to use the DOS like ROOT found in LINUX. I would prefer to run LINUX, but because of my software development requirements, can't. One thing that could be useful is the development of LINDOWS (found at www.lindows.com) which could be a good alternative to LINUX. This would not stray customers away from Windows, but provide people with a much larger choice of operating systems. If lindows can live up to its reputation, I wouldn't mind setting up a dual-boot system again. I won't get rid of Windows, but I will use it less.

Most people will still use Windows because it will most likely be the only Operating System available in pre-built systems (i.e.. dell, gateway, Compaq, alienware, and etc.).

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